Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, South Dakota currently serves a significant number of citizens who are medically underserved for a number of reasons, the most prominent of which include geographic isolation, financial barriers, lack of adequate health insurance, and an insufficient supply of health care providers; and,

Whereas, Community Health Centers (CHCs) are private, nonprofit corporations providing high quality, affordable, comprehensive primary health care to medically underserved people in the state of South Dakota at the following sites: Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Plankinton, Desmet, Martin, Bryant, Howard, Wessington Springs, Lake Preston, White River, Mission, Woonsocket, Bison, Eagle Butte, Faith, Howes, Isabel, LaPlant, McIntosh, Ft. Pierre, Pierre, Gettysburg, Highmore, Murdo, Onida, Presho, Alcester, and Elk Point; and,

Whereas, It is critical that Community Health Centers remain viable providers of primary health care throughout South Dakota; and,

Whereas, Community Health Centers have made great strides in the South Dakota health care system specifically by maintaining a high standard of accountability, demonstrating cost-effectiveness, empowering communities to develop programs to meet their specific needs, strengthening communities to enhance opportunities for children and families, and providing health care services in accessible, low-cost environments; and,

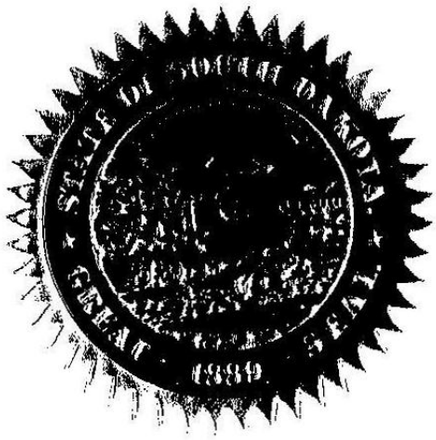
Whereas, Community Health Centers have also made a significant difference in the South Dakota health care system by improving access to quality health care provided by trained professionals in areas that have not been served or underserved, promoting individual responsibility and health awareness in the communities, and offering primary preventive health care of the highest quality to reduce preventable deaths, costly disabilities, and communicable diseases; and,

Whereas, There is a critical need to support implementation of Community Health Centers as safety net providers throughout the state of South Dakota as part of an enduring commitment to the provision of primary health care services:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim August 9-15, 2009, as

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER WEEK

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-ninth Day of July in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nine.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State